

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 713

By DeBerry

A RESOLUTION relative to school nurses.

WHEREAS, there is a critical shortage of nurses in public schools in the United States, as only forty-five percent of all public schools have a full-time school nurse on site; and

WHEREAS, the guidelines from the National Association of School Nurses, the American Nurses Association, and the American Academy of Pediatrics call for one school nurse for every 750 well students and a ratio of one school nurse for every 225 students for student populations needing daily assistance; and

WHEREAS, the ratio of school nurses to students in Tennessee is one school nurse per 3,000 students; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee ranks thirty-eighth in the 2016 *Kids Count* report from the Annie E. Casey Fund, which annually ranks child and family well-being in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the American Academy of Pediatrics in 2016 stated that it is essential that all students have access to a full-time school nurse all day, every day; and

WHEREAS, school nurses advance the well-being, academic success, and the lifelong achievement of students, and school nurses facilitate positive responses to normal development, promote health and safety, intervene with actual and potential health problems, and actively collaborate with others to build student and family capability for adaptation, self-management, self-advocacy, and learning, according to the National Association of School Nurses; and

WHEREAS, school nurses provide a broad complement of services, including case management, health education to students and staff, health promotion, first aid, emergency services, medication administration, advocacy, initiation and implementation of individualized

health plans for students with chronic medical conditions, tracking of immunizations, reporting child abuse, conduct and supervision of state-mandated screening, referral to appropriate agencies after screening, securing needed resources and/or providing families with information on available resources, and procuring free or low-cost services; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby support the enactment of a minimum mandatory school nurse to well student ratio of one school nurse to 750 students in all public schools in the State of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we hereby encourage school districts to access grants made available to help fund school nurses through the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) state plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we encourage all school nurses to work in collaboration with health care and other professionals to provide patient-centered care that maximizes the potential of Tennessee's children and youth.